



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

May 27, 2004

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **GME-3**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REVISIONS TO TITLE 26 RELATING TO PLAN CHECK FEES
FOR THE GEOTECHNICAL REVIEW OF GRADING PLANS
ALL SUPERVISORAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING:

Find that the proposed Ordinance, amending Section 107.9 of Title 26 of the County Code to increase the fees charged for the geotechnical review of grading plans, is being adopted to meet operational expenses, and is therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 21080(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code and Section 15273 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (the State CEQA Guidelines).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Public Works has performed a study of the current fee structure for the geotechnical review of grading plans versus the cost of providing the services. This study indicates that the fees currently charged for these activities are not sufficient to recover the estimated reasonable cost of performing these activities.

The proposed Ordinance, if adopted, will increase the fees charged for the geotechnical review of grading plans to an amount sufficient to recover the estimated reasonable cost of performing these activities.

The Auditor-Controller has reviewed and approved the fee revisions contained in the proposed Ordinance.

The fees for providing these services were last revised in 2002.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility as the proposed Ordinance, if adopted, will revise the fees charged for the County's geotechnical review of grading plans to more accurately reflect the estimated reasonable cost of these activities, and thereby provide sufficient funds for full recovery of all related costs associated with these activities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

If adopted, the proposed Ordinance will increase the revenues generated from the fees charged for the geotechnical review of grading plans to an amount sufficient to recover the estimated reasonable cost of performing these activities.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to Sections 66014 and 66016 of the Government Code, permit fees charged by local agencies generally must not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of the regulatory activities for which the fees are charged. See also, Health and Safety Code Section 17951 and Mills v. County of Trinity, 108 Cal.App.3d 656, (Cal.App. 3 Dist., 1980).

Pursuant to Sections 54986 and 66016 of the Government Code, prior to approving an increase in an existing fee, your Board must hold a public hearing, at which oral or written presentations may be made, as part of a regularly scheduled meeting. Notice of the time and place of the meeting must be mailed at least 14 days prior to the meeting to any interested party who files a written request with the Executive Officer of the Board or mailed notice of meetings on new or increased fees or charges. Additionally, notice of the time and place of the meeting must be published for ten days in a newspaper regularly published once a week or more often. Further, at least ten days prior to the meeting, your Board must make available to the public data indicating the amount of cost, or estimated cost, required to provide the service, or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee is levied and the revenue sources anticipated to provide the service or the cost of enforcing any regulation, including general fund revenues.

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As of the date of this item, no valid written request for mailed notice of meetings on new or increased fees or charges was on file with either Public Works or the Executive Officer of the Board.

Data indicating the amount of cost, or estimated cost, required to provide the service for which the fee is levied and the revenue sources anticipated to provide the service, including General Fund revenues, has been available to the public at the Executive Office of the Board since May 25, 2004.

The proposed Ordinance has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

No adverse impact.

CONCLUSION

Please return one copy of the adopted letter and the Ordinance to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel

INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR PUBLISHING
LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

TO: Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

FROM: Department of Public Works
Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division

**NOTICE OF HEARING
REVISIONS TO TITLE 26
RELATING TO PLAN CHECK FEES FOR THE
GEOTECHNICAL REVIEW OF GRADING PLANS**

Publishing

Pursuant to Section 66018 of the California Government Code, prior to adopting an ordinance approving an increase in an existing fee, a local agency shall hold a public hearing. In accordance with Section 6062a of the California Government Code, the Executive Officer shall publish notice of the hearing. Publication of the notice shall be for ten days in a newspaper regularly published once a week or more often. Two publications, with at least five days intervening between the dates of the first and last publication, not counting such publication dates are sufficient. The period of notice commences upon the first day of publication and terminates at the end of the tenth day, including therein the first day.

Forward five reprints of the attached advertisement to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division, P.O. Box 1460, Alhambra, California 91802-1460.

Should there be any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Michael A. Montgomery of this office, at (626) 458-4923, Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Attach.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED FEE INCREASE**

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting will be held by the Board of Supervisors regarding an increase to the fees for the geotechnical review of grading plans.

Said hearing will be held on _____, at 9:30 a.m., in the Hearing Room of the Board of Supervisors, Room 381B, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street (corner of Temple Street and Grand Avenue), Los Angeles, California 90012.

Data indicating the amount of cost, or estimated cost, required to provide the service for which the above fees are levied and the revenue sources anticipated to provide the service, including General Fund revenues, if any, shall be made available to the public at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing. The data will be available at the Executive Office of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, Room 383, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

The Board of Supervisors will consider and may adopt the fee increase. Further notice is given that the Board of Supervisors may continue this hearing from time to time.

Written comments may be sent to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors at the above address. If you do not understand this notice or need more information, please contact Michael Montgomery of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at (626) 458-4923, Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Si, no entiende este anuncio o necesita mas informacion, por favor llamar a Rossana D'Antonio al (626) 458-4923, de lunes a jueves, 7 a.m. a 5 p.m.